(b) whether the Commission has proposed that the new regulatory authority would take over the functions of UGC, AICTE, the Medical Council of India and the Dental Councils of India, etc.; and

(c) whether Government are considering the creation of a National Commission on Higher Education to take over the functions of the proposed regulatory authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has recommended that while the role of University Grants Commission (UGC) would be re-defined to focus on the disbursement of grants to and maintenance of, public institutions in higher education, the entry regulatory functions of the AICTE, the Medical Council of India and Bar Council of India would be performed by the Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE), so that their role would be limited to that of professional associations. However, recommendations of the NKC are in the public domain for wider debate among all stake-holders.

(c) A proposal to set up a 'National Commission on Higher Education' is under consideration in the light of the observations of various concerned stake-holders.

Investment in education

†2166. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee headed by Shri Kapil Sibal, constituted by Central Advisory Board of Education, has recommended the need for investment of 3,21,196 crore rupees from 2006-07 to 2011-12, for implementation of the legislation on compulsory education for children between the age group of six to fourteen years under the Eighty-sixth Constitution Amendment;

(b) if so, the fact in this regard and whether it is also a fact that Government have not sanctioned this amount of expenditure; and

(c) if so, the amount estimated by Government for expenditure and the basis of this estimate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The Kapil Sibal Committee had relied on the financial estimate prepared by National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) to put in to effect the right to free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years. This financial estimate was based on four alternative scenarios, the lowest estimate being Rs.3,21,196 crores and the highest Rs.4,36,459 crores over a six year

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

period from 2006-07 to 2011-12. The financial estimate has since been revised by NUEPA and now indicates a lower figure of Rs. 2,28,674 crores over the period of 2008-09 to 2014-15. The Central Government has in the last three years significantly enhanced the budgetary allocations to State Governments as part of its commitment towards universalisation of elementary education.

Eligibility of distance education for Central Government jobs

2167. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that students who got degree through distance mode, approved by the Academic Council of Annamalai University and Vinayak Mission University, would be eligible for Central Government jobs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that students who got degree through distance education from universities like Delhi University, Jamia Millia Islamia University, would not get Central Government jobs as per Government's rule; and

(c) if so, the reasons to give more power to academic councils of the above two universities in comparison to other universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Gazette Notification No. 44 dated March 01,1995 *inter-alia* provides that the qualifications awarded by the universities through distance mode are recognized for the purpose of employment in Central Government, provided it has been approved by the Distance Education Council (DEC) and wherever necessary by All India Council for Technical Education. Annamalai University and Vinayak Mission University have been recognized by Distance Education Council with effect from 15.2.2007 and 28.2.2007 respectively. Delhi University and Jamia Millia Islamia University have not yet submitted their proposals for recognition of their distance education programmes by DEC.

Shortage of faculty in IITs

2168. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IIT, Delhi and other IITs are finding it difficult to find high-quality faculty;

(b) if so, whether IITs have lowered the standards for new faculty;

(c) the steps Government are taking to encourage IITs get the best faculty;

(d) whether new IITs would be given financial help to recruit suitable faculty; and

(e) the details of support to be given to new faculty at the newly established IITs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Indian Institutes